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Prague, gratuitously and without solicitation, the Prague News Letter, A Survey of Czechoslovak News and Comments, printed in English on thin paper and published fortnightly at Stalinova 3, Prague XII, (Tel; 274-41). The envelope appears addressed by some sort of addressograph plate. A recent issue of this publication contained, besides miscellaneous news squibs, the following articles:

- (a) Czechoslovak Independence Day.
- (b) Czech Protest over the recent Spy Disclosures (including names of US personnel involved).
- (c) Recent Cuts in Coupon Values.
- (d) Workers Are New Intelligentsia.
- (e) The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.
- (f) The Function of Banking in a People's Democracy.
- (g) Assembly Approves the Church Bill.

Available on loan from CIA Library is a copy of Vol 5, No 19, 27 Oct 49 of the Prague News Letter, together with the airmail envelope it came in.

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PRAGUE NEWS LETTER

A SURVEY OF CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AND COMMENTS

PRAGUE, XII, STALINOVA 3

PHONE 274-41

Vol. 5, No. 19

27th October 1949

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

On October 28, 1918 the Czechoslovak Republic was formed and for the first time in three centuries of suppression by the Germans and the Hungarians, the Czech and Slovak nations emerged from their "period of darkness" as the famous Czech writer Jirásek called it, as independent nations.

It was on this date that Woodrow Wilson sent his congratulatory telegram from Paris where Britain, France and America were holding their Peace Conference after the First World War.

But it was not in fact Wilson's telegram which brought Czechoslovakia into existence. National liberation and the setting up of the Czechoslovak Republic was not a spontaneous gift from the Allies, but was a necessity forced on them by the demands of the Czech people.

History is not written at green-covered tables, nor controlled and shaped by kings or rulers as bourgeois historians would have us believe. History has its dates, it is true, but they are the culmination of a historical process which itself is the decisive factor.

What actually led to the breaking up of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the setting up of an independent Czechoslovakia? First it was the Great Russian October Revolution, which aroused the workers of all countries and strengthened their struggle to win their revolutionary demands. This great revolution which formulated the principle of the self-determination of nations, was the turning point in the situation of the Czech people. And under this influence Czech workers stepped up their fight. Strikes spread all over the country, and it became more and more apparent that the final outcome of the war would produce a demand for an independent State, for a Socialist Republic. The fight of the working class reached its culminating point on October 14th, 1918 in the big general strike. The disintegrating Austro-Hungarian Monarchy no longer dared to oppose the workers and in many towns the Czechoslovak Independent Republic was proclaimed and a Socialist Republic demanded.

And it remains a historical fact that the influence of the Russian Revolution on the fight of the working class was the decisive factor in national liberation and the creation of an independent Czechoslovak Republic. This fact cannot be altered by any falsification of history or by any legends put out by the bourgeoisie in an effort to hide the historical truth.

But the will of the working people, which demanded the implementation of the national and democratic demands and their desire that the new Republic, proclaimed a fortnight after the general strike, on October 28th, should be a Socialist State were betrayed by their leaders.

The working class was not at that time politically prepared, as it lacked a revolutionary party which would have consistently fought for its rights. The Czechoslovak bourgeoisie retained its leadership and gradually succeeded in abolishing all that had been granted in the first days of independence. The ruling class of the Czechoslovak Republic relying on its treaty with the West, made the structure of independent Czechoslovakia actually dependent on the western politicians at Versailles in the same way as they later recognized the right of the western imperialists to decide on the further existence of the State. This policy ended in the shameful Munich betrayal, when Czechoslovakia was sold out to Hitler.

Then came 1945 when Czechoslovakia once more became an independent state, and it was again the Soviet Union, no longer young and untried but the mighty power which had defeated Hitler Germany, which liberated Czechoslovakia.

History does not repeat itself and what happened in 1918 could not happen in 1945. The free Czechoslovak working people unlike 1918, now had a real alliance with the Soviet Union was concluded which conditions upon which to base the reconstruction of their real masters of the country.

In February 1948, the struggle within the Republic, the struggle of the working people against a reaction which wanted to reverse the course of history and once more link the fate of Czechoslovakia with the West and return to the pre-war Republic, was resolved for all time.

The significance of October 28th has not diminished because on this day one of the main steps which led to the establishment of the people's democratic regime was taken. Czechoslovakia's independence was then proclaimed and it is this independence from all foreign masters which is sealed today by friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. These alliances are guarantee of its continued freedom, of the peace and progress so earnestly desired by the Czechoslovak people. So a real independence has been fought for and won, an independence that does not leave the workers freedom to work and starve but freedom to work and live.

AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE BEHIND ESPIONAGE ORGANISATION

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S SHARP PROTEST TO UNITED STATES

In a Note of protest lodged with the American Embassy in Prague last week the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that a diplomatic official of the American Embassy in Prague enjoying diplomatic privileges, Mr. Isaac Patch and an official, Mr. Samuel Meryn, not enjoying such privileges, directed an anti-State espionage organisation in Czechoslovakia.

In this Note it was disclosed that "This organisation, established in March 1948 by Mr. W. Birge, a former diplomatic official of the American Embassy, recruited for espionage purposes Major Nechanský and Veleoslav Wahl, instructing them in their tasks as leaders of the organisation."

The Note says that these two people built up a number of illegal groups composed of Czechoslovak citizens whom Mr. Birge met regularly and whose activities of espionage against Czechoslovakia in favour of the USA he directed.

"Through Mr. Birge, another former official of the American Embassy, Mr. Spencer L. Taggart, took charge of the instruction part of the organisation in July 1948, while Mr. Birge retained the political supervision."

"Mr. Taggart maintained contact with the leader of the organisation, Major Nechanský, either directly or through Mr. S. Meryn."

The Note then says that Mr. Meryn, in the autumn of 1948 himself took two radio transmitters to individual anti-State groups, complete with instructions and cypher

code. The transmitters were of American make and of the most modern type.

"Before leaving for the USA, Mr. Birge introduced to the leaders of the organisation as his successor Mr. Isaac Patch, the diplomatic official who acted in this capacity for a relatively short time before succeeded by the Third Secretary of the American Embassy, Miss Louise Shaffner, who instructed the groups until their arrest."

"The activities of all the persons named were concerned with instructing and informing the groups in their espionage activity, and in receiving information, in making available the technical needs of the group carrying out espionage and, in the case of Mr. Birge and Mr. Taggart, also in mediating between those organisations and the treacherous group abroad which established itself in the so-called "Council of Free Czechoslovakia".

"Miss Shaffner, who left Czechoslovakia on October 18th, also mediated between this organisation and other illegal organisations, and carried out their fusion this summer with an illegal group organising escapes abroad."

"Stating that all the above mentioned facts were confirmed by proof and mainly by corroborative statements by the arrested leaders of the organisation, who maintained contact with these officials of the American Embassy, as well as by the statements of the other members of this group, who knew of these contacts, and in the case

(Continued on page 3.)



Emil Zátopek, Olympic champion, regained his 10,000 metre world record by breaking the Finnish champion Heino's record by 6 seconds. Zátopek's time was 29 minutes, 21.2 seconds.

MORE SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN COUPON VALUES

The minister of Internal Trade, Mr. F. Krážíř in a radio broadcast, one week after the announcement of the release of more commodities — mainly foodstuffs — onto the free market, told the Czechoslovak people that from now on they will be able to buy more shoes since the coupon value has been greatly reduced.

Thus for instance shoes with rubber soles now only require 5 coupons instead of 25 needed up to now. Ladies shoes previously required 60 coupons are now available for 40. All kinds of footwear (150 various sorts) have been reduced in coupon value, some being taken off coupons altogether.

Prices remain unchanged, so that the new measures will enable the people to really buy more shoes.

Just as the recent release of more consumer goods at lower prices onto the free market was rendered possible through the increase in the output of those goods so the fulfilment of the Plan for the leather and rubber industry (targets for the last nine months having been fulfilled 103.5 per cent) enabled the reduction of coupons required for all kinds of footwear.

Statistics about the purchase of every-day necessities give further proof of the steady rise in the living standards of the people of this country.

Thus for instance the great improvement of production in the textile industry, which as a rule exceeds the planned targets nearly every month, shows itself, amongst other things, in increased sales of ready-made clothing, which in the first quarter of 1949 were 46 per cent higher than in the corresponding period in 1948.

Sales of ladies' and girls' wear, for instance increased by as much as 86 per cent and that of men's and boys' overcoats and suits by 62 per cent.

The share of the working class in total consumption has very much increased as a natural result of the increase of the purchasing power of the workers' wages.

Before one hour's wage bought 1.2 kg of bread. Today one hour's wage buys 8.65 kg of bread. And though there are still many foodstuffs on rations, the caloric value of a workers' diet is today 2,600 calories per day, which is above the average for the years 1934—1937.

Basic foodstuffs, i.e. meat, fats (including margarine, butter, lard and oil), cheese, milk and sugar are rationed here and considering the fact that the average income of a worker in Czechoslovakia amounts to 3,500 Kčs to 4,000 Kčs a month the cost of a monthly food ration is indeed very low. Thus monthly rations for adults come to 192, 4 Kčs including 1.5 kg of meat for 75 Kčs, 12 dkg of lard for 7.20 Kčs, 56 dkg of butter for 44.80 Kčs, 16 dkg of margarine for 6.40 Kčs, 1.5 kg of sugar for 25.60 Kčs, four eggs for 11.20 Kčs, the monthly milk ration for 16.40 Kčs and cheese (10 dkg) for 7.80 Kčs.

Rations for youths between 12 and 20 years of age cost 385.20 Kčs and those for children between the age of 6 and 12 331.60 Kčs. Rations for babies, one to two years of age, cost 303.20 Kčs and those for children of two to six 270.60 Kčs.

Additional rations for heavy workers make up for 59.10 Kčs and for very heavy workers 134.20 Kčs.

These few facts apart from the many social achievements the new Czechoslovakia offers to her people, show that the worker of today can really afford to buy the commodities industry is turning out in an ever increasing quantity.

PRAGUE WILL HAVE A STALIN MONUMENT. The foundation stone of a monument to Generalissimo Stalin on the hill facing the Vltava in Prague will be laid on December 21st, the 70th birthday of the Soviet leader.

This was announced at a meeting of the Government Committee for the co-ordination of the birthday festivities in this country. From all regions of the Republic special delegations will bring stones from Czech and Slovak mountains for the building of the monument.

At the Committee meeting presided over by its chairman, Information Minister Václav Kopecký, it was also decided that signatures to a message of greetings to the Generalissimo would be collected all over the Republic during the "Days of Czechoslovak Soviet Friendship".

ASSEMBLY APPROVES THE CHURCH BILLS

At its first session after the summer recess the Czechoslovak National Assembly passed the Bill on the establishment of a State Office for Church Affairs, headed by a Minister and the Bill which secures the financial and material needs of clergymen, Churches and religious institutions. Both laws will come into force on November 1st.

From now on every clergyman will receive a basic salary of 36,000 Kčs per annum, to be increased for every three years of service by 3,600 Kčs. Clergymen, starting with the rank of parish priests, will also receive an additional bonus of 12—48,000 Kčs per annum, and an efficiency bonus up to 2,000 Kčs per month as well as travel and removal expenses. Clergymen and their dependents will now be entitled to all social benefits. Special fees for marriages etc. which have not been abolished will not be affected and will be in addition to the fixed salary of the clergy.

Priests remain the employees of their denominations and they do not become employees of the State. Neither will a State Church be established, as emphasised by Dr. Čepička, Minister of Justice in his speech to the National Assembly. It was obvious, the Minister stated that the State reserved to itself the right to examine, from the point of view of national and State reliability, persons proposed for an ecclesiastical office or function.

The new State Office for Church Affairs will deal with all problems concerning religious and Church matters in this country. It will bring order into the economic affairs of the Church and religious institutions, without in any way interfering with their internal affairs. Churches will continue to decide for themselves and quite freely on their activities. However, they will not be permitted to be misused for activities against the State. The people of this country are maintaining the Churches and for this people's money, the interests of the nation and State must not be betrayed.

The two new laws were wholeheartedly welcomed by the representatives of the various denominations present at the debate in the National Assembly. Although none of the Catholic bishops attended the session, ordinary Catholic priests came to Prague in such numbers that there was not enough room in the Assembly for all of them.

All those outstanding Church problems which not a single capitalist government was ever able to solve have now been solved by the government of the working people. Although these laws entail expenses running into hundreds of million of Kčs per annum, the People's Democracy, thanks to the great successes of its planned economy brought about by the workers, is able to relieve the clergy from their material worries.

fact that in a letter to the Ministry of the Interior on June 22nd, 1949, he said: 'I shall not be leaving the palace as long as the measures taken in the consistory are not abolished'.

Cannot Be Done

"The Archbishop in this way wants to enforce the withdrawal of the trustee who was appointed to introduce order. This of course, cannot be done as long as there is no guarantee that the consistorial office will not once more be abused for anti-State activities."

The Minister then disclosed that a short time ago the Catholic Bishops and Ordinari addressed a memorandum to the Government in which they asked for negotiations under the condition that measures taken to make impossible subversive activity of the reactionary clerics should be lifted before the opening of the discussions.

"This is not an honest agreement that they are after but a political provocation aimed at provoking unrest in the Republic" he stated, adding that before the memorandum could be discussed by the Government, the Bishops and Ordinari had handed the text of it — just as was previously the case with pastoral letters — to the inimical foreign press and radio to be used as material for attacks against Czechoslovakia. This was further proof that the offer was not to be taken seriously.

"At the same time, the Bishops had issued detailed orders for the carrying out of the excommunication of Catholic members of the Communist Party and the National Front, although they know very well that by doing this they came into direct conflict not only with their own flock and their own Church, but also with the convictions and feelings of the entire nation."

In conclusion the Minister warned against attempts to circumvent the new Law, which abolished all former regulations. Nobody, not even the Bishops, had the right to take away from the priests the wages they received from the people, as one of the Bishops in his appeal demanded that priests accept the new wages but do not use the money. According to this order the Bishop usurped to himself the exclusive right of disposing of this money.

"This money paid by our people as a just reward for the work of the clergy must not be taken away from them. Money paid by the people's democratic State is as pure as it can be, because it is the result of honest work and honest life."

Tainted Money

"The Bishops cannot claim this purity for the money with which they finance their underground disruptive activity. It comes from dark foreign sources and is besmirched with the sufferings of exploited people, shameful treachery and dishonesty."

The new laws which solve the problems of religion and Church were the expression of the political, moral and economic victory over the enemies of the working people of this country, the Minister stated. "This was a great victory over the Vatican, which will never succeed in mobilising the Church, as a whole into the service of the enemies of Socialism. Never would it succeed in breaking up the unity of the people of Czechoslovakia in their great work of building up a new and just social order."

And whilst the passing of the Laws was a joyful event for all honest Catholics in this country, it was a black day in the annals of the Vatican.

FIRST INDIAN D. SC. The head of the glass department of the Benares University Mr. Rama Charen, has received the degree of Doctor of Science at the Prague University. He arrived in Czechoslovakia earlier this year and studied methods of glass manufacture at the Institute of Professor Rudolf Barta, at the Engineering Faculty of Prague Technical College.

The Indian Ambassador, Mr. Nedyam Raghavan, attended the ceremony.

The Editor invites correspondence and questions of any points of special interest to the readers of P. N. L.

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WOMAN IS RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY

For the first time in its history Czechoslovakia has a woman as the Rector of a University.

Dr. Jiřina Otáhalová-Popelová has been appointed Rector of the Palacký University at Olomouc (Moravia) by the Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. Nejedlý.

Writing in Lidové Noviny Dr. Popelová says that the pedagogical faculties must supply teachers who are not handicapped by the prejudices of the past.

We must train new people who will be able to educate new generations. We must train them quickly because the schools are waiting for them.

"The need for teachers was not only caused by the great shortage of teaching staffs but also by the shortage of politically minded teachers for adult-education courses."

Referring to the new type of students in pedagogical faculties, the new rector pointed out, it will be the task to train these new pupils to a high working morale not only during their studies but also in their future profession. It must be a matter of honour for the pedagogical faculties that their graduates are trained to take up any appointment dictated by the requirements of the State with unflinching devotion.

The faculties must fulfil a great many tasks in the field of research, set by the rapid speed of social and scientific development.

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A copy of any issue carrying such extracts would be gratefully received.

YOUTH RAILWAY FINISHED. Already in 1943 it was decided to build a new railway line from Hronská Du brava to Banská Stavnica in Slovakia. However because of shortage of building workers construction proceeded very slowly.

Czechoslovak youth came to the rescue and offered help, and in March 1948 the first voluntary workers started their job. And in the following months 48,000 young people worked there building one bridge, several viaducts, one tunnel and several side-lines.

NUMBER PLEASE! Telephone connection has now been established between this country and Israel.

It will be maintained over a direct line from Prague to Berne, and from there by the Berne radio telephone station.

For the time being Tel Aviv will be the only town in Israel to and from which it will be possible to phone. A three-minute conversation will cost 510 Kčs, with 170 Kčs for each additional minute and a booking fee of 52 Kčs.

POLISH TEACHERS HERE. A group of 15 Polish teachers from trade schools have arrived in Prague. They will stay in Czechoslovakia for four weeks to study the work at special trade schools.

A group of Czechoslovak teachers is to leave for Poland shortly.

FARMERS FOR THE USSR. Three hundred of the most successful farmers men and women have left for the Soviet Union to inspect collective farms, State farms and other agricultural institutions. The delegation will remain in the USSR for three weeks and is the largest farmers expedition to visit the Soviet Union.

WORKER IS DIRECTOR. Mr. Gustav Kliment, the Minister of Industry, has appointed Jan Bilek, a foundry worker, to be a manager of the huge iron works at Bohumin in Silesia. To mark the occasion, all young workers of the factory have decided to work an extra shift next Sunday.

CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF. The Government has decided to contribute another five million Kčs to the United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund. This brings Czechoslovakia's contribution to a total of 55 mil. Kčs.

CZECHOSLOVAK LIFE

Readers of "Prague News Letter" are reminded that they can obtain a copy of the illustrated fortnightly magazine "Czechoslovak Life" by applying to:

The Secretary, British-Czechoslovak Friendship League, 20, Pont Street, London, S. W. 1, or to Universal Distributors, 52—4, West 13th Street, New York 11 — N. Y.

Readers outside the United States and Great Britain should apply to the Editor, "Czechoslovak Life", Prague XII, Stalinova 3.

Printed on art paper this magazine gives a colourful picture of all phases of life in Czechoslovakia.

Menace To Security

"Are the rights of the Bishops endangered or are they not", the Minister continued. "Who maintains that a Bishop has the right, even the sacred duty, to give orders violating the law and menacing the security of the working people? Whoever says that today the working people are not willing to recognise that Bishops have such a right is correct. In such a case the workers do not speak about sacred right but about criminal activity."

He went on to say that in consistorial offices people who, in the course of the purge of February, 1948 had been eliminated from public and political life were hidden there. Illegal pamphlets and appeals to violation of the State laws were manufactured there. And it was for this reason and no other that intervention was necessary.

Nobody can see in such legal measures the curtailment of the rights of the Church.

"And as far as steps had been taken against high Church dignitaries it was only because they committed punishable offences as citizens of the Republic. Such an abuse of their office has nothing to do with the freedom of religion and Church and has nothing to do with the steps taken by security organs either. If the Church aristocracy believes that religious freedom means for them freedom for subversive and disintegrating activities against State and Government, they are mistaken and bear full responsibility for such an attitude. Not even the Bishop's Mitre entitles anyone to act differently than the law requires from every citizen."

The Minister then recalled the fact that no Czech or Slovak priest who went with the Czech or Slovak people had ever achieved the honour of a cardinal's hat. This right was reserved for those who were willing to sacrifice the interests of their people to the world-dominating aims of the Vatican.

In this connection he said: "It seems for this reason that the Prague Archbishop, too, is ready to play the role of a martyr, prisoner and anything the Vatican may need of him. How else could the Archbishop's attitude be explained when he declares himself to be a prisoner in spite of the

INTEL NEWS LETTER

WORKERS ARE NEW INTELLIGENTSIA

A new University College of Political and Economic Science has been opened in Prague, merging two former faculties, political and social science and economic science, into one school. The high school itself has two faculties: Social Science, to educate lecturers and tutors in social science at universities and third grade schools as well as the political editors of Press, radio and information services; and secondly, the political-diplomatic faculty, which will educate political workers for positions in internal administration and foreign affairs.

Professor Ladislav Stoll, the Rector, opening the new University college, emphasised the difference between the intelligentsia of capitalist and socialist countries. In the former, scientists and scientific workers, both by their behaviours and in their work, always stressed that they had nothing in common with the people, but on the contrary belonged to another world. The main characteristics of such people were, said Professor Stoll, their individualism, selfishness and pride. Always excepting that handful of scientists who had a correct attitude to science and culture, correct relations with the mass of the people and valued science and culture as a valuable instrument in the building up of Socialism.

Professor Stoll pointed out that the new, democratic State, with its new methods of production, the peoples-administration, its new social relations and its achievements all won as a result of the February events of 1948, called for a new type of intelligentsia — one loyal to its people and state and composed of responsible people, equipped with expert scientific and political knowledge.

Welcoming the students many of them youths who had successfully passed their preparatory courses and had proved their intelligence and maturity by their work in factories and fields, the Professor said:

"The fact that talented workers are now joining the universities is not only a matter of making good the injustices of the past. This problem goes far deeper that may appear on the surface. For the whole question must be seen in connection with the leading position of the working class in society — within the state.

"Industrial workers who came into being as a new social type during the XIX century differ basically from all other classes and sections of society. They differ in their relations towards the forces of production, their organised co-operation, their working discipline, their typical humor and their socialist consciousness. They represent a new type of the collective type of man and opposite him stands the petty bourgeois as the typical individualist, who only thinks in the spirit of his own 'ego'. 'Ego' will solve the problems of his happiness in life — at the cost of the happiness of others — 'ego' will always be employed, and so on.

"And how different, radically different, is the social conscious worker of today. The worker who is able to produce machine parts with the precision of 1/1000 millimetres, who every day creates the most beautiful and ingenious things to serve mankind, such a man has realised long ago that it is not under 'ego' but under the great collective unity of 'we' that it is possible to change the world and make it a better one for all. Such a worker wants, creative work, he wants to work under human and decent conditions. He does not want to live at the expense of other people but neither does he want others to live at his expense. Therefore he wants to eliminate capitalism, the private ownership of the means of production and exploitation."

In order to procreate himself as a social type, the Professor continued, the bourgeois needed an

atmosphere of competitive struggle, of cynicism and war. But the worker needs the help of science and the atmosphere of socialism, the co-operation of nations and peace. And for his happiness, he needs humane living standards, he needs to develop and multiply as man.

"In this lies the historic greatness, the significance of the working class, the secret of its leading position in society, its mission as the saviour of mankind. Marx once said that the proletarian revolution, being the victory of the interests of the working class, was an act of self-preservation by human society.

"From that it is evident that the deep interest of the working class as a class is in harmony with the interest of humanity and science. All that is in the interest of the working class, such as well-planned rational, creative work in factories and workshops, harmonious co-operation between nations, their mutual struggle for a better future, for peace and for Communism is all identical with the interest of science. Science, too, needs peace for its creative health, for discovery and research. It needs collective work and international co-operation of the men and women of science."

The road to truth, to real recognition was a historical process, the Professor said, a collective deed. This must control our entire attitude towards science and knowledge because it was one of the basic features of the representatives of the new socialist intelligentsia, which made it different from the old, obsolete individualist intellectual.

"Such a negation of individualism does not mean, however, the negation of individuality and personality but, on the contrary, this is the precondition necessary for a rich development of new individualities — socialist personalities."

CZECHOSLOVAK-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

That "a friend in need is a friend indeed" is a fact well proven to the people of Czechoslovakia, the friend in this case being the Soviet Union. Not once but many times since this great people offered their help to the Czechoslovakia threatened by Hitler and deserted by all her fair weather friends has the USSR helped her friend and ally out of difficulties.

The phony protectorate was never recognized; the Red Army having liberated the country quietly withdrew; the grain trains sent in when starvation threatened as a result of 1947 drought; great and wise co-operation on economic, political and cultural fronts; the bitter condemnation of the West German so-called government in Bonn already shouting for the return of Sudetenland all these are examples of the view which the Soviet Union takes of the meaning of the word "friend".

To show their appreciation of and affection for their good friends in the USSR, the Czechoslovaks have organised the "Days of Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship", which will commence on November the 2nd next and last until November 13th.

During this period Stachanovites and shockworkers from the Soviet Union will be guests of Czechoslovak workers, scientists from both countries will hold a conference and many outstanding personalities of Soviet cultural life will visit this country. Factory demonstrations will be held as well as meetings of National Committees and official institutions at which the speeches of Government leaders underlining the necessity of Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship will be broadcast. A great drive for new recruits to the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Society is already under weigh and first reports show an increase of thousands of new members.

These "Days" with their official and un-official spontaneous demonstrations must not only be seen as a nation's joyous and grateful thanks to a near and dear friend. For the "Days" will also be an outstanding and unmistakable sign of solidarity with the Soviet Union in the world fight for peace, progress and Socialism, and should serve as a warning signal to western imperialism and its Tito lackeys.

A SOVIET PLAY ABOUT JULIUS FUCIK. The memory of the famous Czech journalist and writer Julius Fucik executed by the Germans is greatly beloved by the people of the Soviet Union. During recent years a number of literary works about Fucik were written in the USSR.

This month a Drama about Julius Fucik written by the Ukrainian playwright Jurij Burjakowski depicting the struggle of the Czechoslovak people against the Hitler invaders and the unforgettable heroism of Fucik, has its premiere at the Academic Theatre of Kijev. This drama will also be shown at the Ochlopkov theatre in Moscow.

ANCIENT ARTS EXHIBITION. An exhibition of pre-historic arts was recently opened at the National Gallery at Prague. This exhibition shows, apart from unique pieces of arts such as the Venus of Vestonice (Moravia), a number of foreign discoveries. Of special interest are reproductions of original cave paintings from the Iberian-French regions. The enormous picture of pre-historic animals are both realistic and of high artistic style.

THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

One of the favourite remarks of the Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, and one which can be repeated with no little pride, is: "We have no paupers and no beggars in our country any longer". He might add, and no Poor Musicians Benevolent Fund, no starving violinists playing to the 1st queue at the Albert Hall, proving or keeping up their acquaintance with serious music — or playing trash to the fatter pockets of a West End theatre queue. The provision of complete social security is no mean achievement, especially for a class of people whose life has become in capitalist countries a by-word for insecurity.

There are various measures which have been taken by the Government of Czechoslovakia to encourage the arts and artists by giving a solid material basis on which they can develop — such as the issue of grants over a year ago to enable sixty young composers to devote themselves to their work without material worries — and the position of the Czech Philharmonic is a good example of the care given to cultural questions; it also, incidentally, provides a good contrast to the state of its sister, the London Philharmonic, which after trying to run on a democratic co-operative basis finds itself beset with financial worries. The very nature of such an orchestra tells against it — running expenses are heavy, a large orchestra is a big concern, and to ensure a decent living not only the conductor and the leaders, but even for the least important member, would require a considerable margin of profit over expenses. The keeping up of the artistic level in itself involves the restricting of the audience to those interested, and to those able to pay the higher prices demanded by economic necessity. It is a vicious circle, giving no knowledge of security to those inside, and no hope to those left to an even more precarious living on their own, at the mercy of agents and condemned, for the most part, to end as suburban teachers of music, or playing to the queues. It is little comfort to subscribe to the Poor Musicians Benevolent Fund and hope for the best.

The Czech Philharmonic has become a state-owned and state-run orchestra — and before you raise cries of curtailed liberty and the freedom of the arts, pause to think what freedom the arts have to develop when even the day's pay is not so secure, and compare with the conditions under which members of the Czech Philharmonic work. The first important point is of course a state subsidy — not to cover losses, but to finance an important part of Czech cultural and educational life. The Czech Philharmonic comes under the authority of the Minister of Education, significantly enough, the effort to spread knowledge of good music and to give everybody access to its treasure, prices are low and so are fees (£ 150 for the whole orchestra); no capitalist-run orchestra could dream of working in such conditions. They are made possible only by state support of such an extent that profit is no longer essential.

The members and administrative staff of the Orchestra are paid by the Ministry of Education, in short are Civil servants with all the security that implies. A young musician, on the lowest scale, gets the pay of a well-established Civil servant in the higher grades, or to compare with another profession now covered by the

state) a hospital doctor after several years' service. The pay of more experienced members of the orchestra, conductors and soloists is graded accordingly. The office of soloists of the Czech Philharmonic is typical of the new attitude to the public as well as to musicians; to smaller centres where the orchestra as a whole cannot play, the Philharmonic sends its four soloists (Zdenek Jilek and Palenček are both pianists; Plocek is one of the best violinists in Europe today, and Milos Sado a fine cellist) as representatives of the highest level of concert performance. The public for first class music is thus no longer restricted to the large towns able to afford a visit from the Philharmonic itself, or to pay artists' fees for solo performances. The soloists are bound by contract to play no more than eight times a year wherever called upon to do so; otherwise they are perfectly free to make their own concert engagements — a contrast to the old system of agents and contracts.

Members of the Czech Philharmonic being free from grosser material worries are able to devote more time to the study and practice of their art apart from necessary concert practice, and the various chamber music ensembles formed (such as the two wind quintets) are also available for independent concerts; while not sent out as part of the Philharmonic, they may be asked as such, or may arrange their own concerts — subject only to the approval of the orchestra committee, to prevent clashes in programme and duties.

This Orchestra Committee is in fact the organ of self-government of the orchestra; it consist of seven members: the two conductors of the orchestra, two members of the orchestra elected by their fellows, the administrative director (who is a Ministry of Education official), a representative of the Syndicate of Composers, and a representative of the Trade Union who is also a musician and composer. An official of the Ministry of Finance has the right to be present at the meetings of the Committee, but has no vote and cannot therefore influence their decisions except by discussion. All important matters are decided by this Committee, not the least of their duties being the discussion of the programme drawn up by the conductor and submitted also to the Minister of Education, himself a first class musical scholar, Zdenek Nejedly.

Keeping always in mind the needs of the new and wider public the programmes of the Czech Philharmonic tend to emphasise the well-known classics of world music on the one hand, and the treasure of Czech music on the other. This does not mean, of course, that new music both from Czech and Slovak composers, and from abroad, is not welcome — just as the two series of concerts planned by the Orchestra for this season will be conducted by four Czech conductors, the two Philharmonic conductors and two guests, and four guest conductors from abroad, so the programmes reflect a broad interest in the music of the whole world.

The Czech Philharmonic, which has always a matter of pride to the whole country, has become a much-loved friend, accessible to all, and bringing to all the treasures formerly reserved for those with the luck, or the money to be able to enjoy them. Now the Philharmonic is a truly national institution, and one of which the Czechs can continue to be proud.

THE FUNCTION OF BANKING IN A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY SEPTEMBER OUTPUT EXCEEDS TARGETS

Economic planning cannot be confined only to production but must cover the whole economic field. If the national economy is to develop harmoniously with the plan, the financial side of the economic balance sheet must first be put in order, and the instrument by which financial planning is carried out are the banks.

What was the main function of banks in a capitalist economy? Banks are the typical economic instrument of the power of the capitalists, although their economic foundations are laid by the savings of the working population. In Czechoslovakia, for instance, national savings flowed into the banks from the mass of the people but were used by only a handful to create a bank capital which grew, by means of credits and participation in production and by linking up bank capital with the capitalists of town and country, into financial capital as the main enemy of the working people in their struggle for the right to live and for progress.

But in a planned economy finance becomes mainly an instrument of planning in the sphere of investments and circulation of commodities. Money as an equivalent of commodity carries out the process of the creation and circulation of commodities, in the movement of which the entire economic process of our type of society is reflected. Therefore we are extremely interested in the financial institutions of this country, and this interest is in direct contrast to that taken in capitalist countries, because here money is no longer the ruler — we rule money through the banks. And in order that these shall fulfil their function as the instrument of financial planning and that the control of production through the crown be exercised, the Government set up financial institutions merged from existing ones. These were two commercial banks which finance production, distribution and foreign trade, and one investment bank which grants long-term credits for investments under the economic plan. To these must be added the Post Office Savings Bank, which is the general clearing agency for the local banks throughout the country. The functions of these last is the pooling and control of small savings and the granting of small, short-term local credits.

The National Bank of Czechoslovakia is the issuing authority for notes and for the general regulations of the payments system.

The credit afforded by commercial banks, which finance production, distribution and foreign trade, has two governing features: a short-term circulation and a direct bearing on the link up of production and distribution. Which means that the bank must ensure that the money returns within the stipulated time and that it is, under all circumstances, balanced by commodities either finished or in process of production. It is therefore of prime importance to have evidence of stocks held and to control their sales. From this it is evident that the bank exercises control of finance, production, and distribution and is thus the instrument of control of the plan through the crown.

The commercial bank for the Czech Lands is the Zivnostenska banka and for Slovakia, the Tatra banka.

Credits for investments which have been worked out within the Five-Year Plan on an annual basis are furnished by the Investments Bank, with its branches in Brno and Bratislava. The same systematic financial control over investments is exercised by this bank as is the case with the commercial bank. The Investment Bank accumulates long-term resources necessary for its credit service both directly (deposits) and indirectly by drawing on capital means available elsewhere (Post Office Savings Bank) and possibly through the sale of bonds of its own issue. Its function also includes the administrative service for the Nationalised Economy Fund, the agency responsible for an adequate capital structure of national corporations in general.

This concentration, which is not yet completed must not be confused with that which exists under monopoly capitalism, because the activities of the banks here are governed by a State which represents the political power of the working people, a State which, whether through nationalisation, planned production or financial planning always seeks to raise the standard of living of the people.

SHOCK WORK IN MINES. Considerable success crowned the efforts of a shock workers' shift worked in the brown-coal mines of North West Bohemia recently.

According to a report from Most, the centre of the area — one surface mine has attained 116 per cent of the norm, whilst in three pits 106%, 114%, and 123% of the norm have been achieved.

POPULATION CENSUS IN MARCH 1950. The third census since the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic will be held on March 1st, 1950.

The census of the population will be this time linked with one of houses and flats, agricultural enterprises, and small traders.

The "National Census" — the first since the war — will be carried out by the National Committees.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S SHARP PROTEST

(Continued from page 1.)

of Meryn, took over from him in the region of Pisek and Slany the transmitters and the plans and codes, the Note adds that further proof was provided by the transmitters themselves, which were supplied by Meryn and which were later discovered.

"As the consequence of the above," the Note concludes, "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 1. Protests strongly against this activity of the present and former members of the American Embassy mentioned, aimed against the security of Czechoslovakia. It also protests against the abuse of their diplomatic privileges and their official position for the carrying out of such activity.

2. Demands that Mr. Isaac Patch should in the shortest possible time (24 hours) leave the territory of Czechoslovakia.

3. Announces that Czechoslovak security organs will arrest S. Meryn, an official of the American Embassy, on the basis of the above mentioned proof."

The content of this note is one more proof of the attempts of American imperialism aimed at hampering the peaceful building up of the popular democratic state of Czechoslovakia.

Before February the hirelings of the western imperialists Zenkl, Drtina, Majer, Lettrich and all the other enemies of their own people, aimed to obstruct the building of Socialism and to place Czechoslovakia under the rule of American imperialism.

In February 1948, however, these traitors as well as their masters suffered a complete defeat, for the people of this country cast their decisive vote and stepped out even more resolutely on the road to Socialism, side by side with the Soviet Union and the other People's Democracies.

And yet the successes of building up Socialism in Czechoslovakia, the favourable economic developments followed by a constant increase in the living standards of the people and their fight for peace with all democratic forces throughout the world is a thorn in the flesh of the American imperialists, because the work of the Czechoslovak people strengthens the working people in the capitalist world in their struggle for real democracy and peace.

INCREASED FAMILY ALLOWANCES. Family allowances according to the latest regulations are being increased as follows: Children allowances: for one child 190 Kčs (per month), for two children 430 Kčs, for three 720 Kčs, for four 1,060 Kčs, for five 1,450 Kčs, for six 1,690 Kčs, for seven 2,380 Kčs, eight 2,920 Kčs, nine 3,460 Kčs and for ten 4,000.

State and public employees as well as retired employees of this category will receive, apart from their pension, a special education allowance for their children, i.e. 2,280 Kčs for one child, 5,160 Kčs for two children, 8,640 Kčs for three, etc. up to 28,560 Kčs for seven children, and 6,480 Kčs for each further child.

Invalids who are not entitled to family allowances will receive another 40 Kčs per month.

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The American espionage service therefore tried everything to frustrate the peaceful work of the people here. American diplomats abused their privileges and directly inspired this country's enemies for illegal and anti-State activities.

This case exposes all the attempts of the enemies of peace and progress and all the criminal plots of the American imperialists and their servants, recruited from defeated reaction which speculate on war against its own country and try by terrorist acts and espionage, to prepare the ground for the return of the rule of capitalism.

However, these increasingly underhand methods meet by the ever-stronger resolve and vigilance of the working people, who answer these plots with greater building efforts and successes and see to it that their work is not undermined by their enemies and the enemies of all decent people throughout the world.

The security organs who are safeguarding the achievements and the building efforts of the working people of this country, have now liquidated all these illegal groups and have arrested the leaders including Meryn, Nechanický, Wahl, etc. It is characteristic that amongst the leaders of the espionage groups there was not one single worker, that they were all people who belonged to the bourgeoisie. This is another proof that it is the defeated capitalist class which alone works for the return of the rule of exploiters.

Statistical data published here recently show that Czechoslovak industry excluding food, fulfilled its September targets by 101.5 per cent. This satisfactory achievement points to the realistic assumption of the planned targets and to the further intensification of socialist emulation, which is spreading to an ever increasing extent.

The first year of the Five-Year Plan for the months January—September was thus fulfilled by 101.5 per cent. Individual sectors show the following results:

Industry	August	Sept.	Jan.—Sept.
Mining	101.5	97.0	100.4
Power	100.2	102.6	101.6
Foundries	93.1	99.4	99.7
Engineering	107.0	105.8	108.0
Chemical	93.8	86.7	95.0
Glass	94.4	96.4	98.1
Building materials	94.0	96.9	99.2
Paper	101.5	100.4	102.1
Textile and Clothes	105.4	109.8	106.3
Leather and Rubber	101.8	99.6	103.5
Gramophone and Film	102.5	106.1	104.9
Total	99.8	101.5	101.8

Most of the branches of heavy industry have in September improved their output as compared with the August level with the exception of coal production, which fell short of the targets by approximately two per cent. Mines are short of manpower and productivity showed a slight drop following the great efforts of the miners to keep August production in line with targets.

However, foundries achieved 102.6 per cent of the plan compared with 100.2 per cent in August. These results will be even more appreciated if one considers the permanent shortage of foundry workers.

The metal and engineering industry improved its output figures from 93.1 per cent in August to 99.4 per cent in September.

These achievements were greatly aided by the increase of socialist emulation, socialist contracts and the control of proper distribution of manpower. The best achievements are those of heavy engineering.

Socialist emulation and shock work shows the best results in the textile and clothing industry, which placed this sector as the first as far as the fulfilment of the plan is concerned. Last on the list has this time been the glass industry. The decline is explained by the fact that certain factories are changing over to the production of glass for technical purposes which caused a temporary slowing down.

FOREIGN TRADE ACTIVITIES. Export and import lists for 1950 have been exchanged between Czechoslovakia and Poland in Warsaw. The negotiations proper started in Warsaw on October 15th.

Export and import lists have also been exchanged with Rumania pending the opening of trade negotiations.

Trade talks are in progress in Prague for a new Czechoslovak-Swiss trade agreement, while trade negotiations with France are to begin in November.

The provisional Czechoslovak-Hungarian trade agreement, signed in Prague on April 13, 1949 and brought into force on June 3rd, has been unanimously approved by the plenary session of the National Assembly.

The agreement provides for the most favoured treatment in mutual customs and export and import relations, and on all questions concerning import and export taxes.

It also envisages special agreement on rail and river transit and on the co-operation of Danubian steamship companies.

TRADE WITH BRITAIN APPROVED. Following a statement by Dr. A. Gregor, Minister of Foreign Trade, the Government has approved the foreign trade and financial agreements as well as the agreement on compensation for nationalisation concluded with Great Britain recently.

500,000,000 KCS AT FAIR. At the Autumn Fair held in Prague last month countries which were officially represented included the USSR, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania, Finland, Italy and Switzerland were represented by unofficial expositions.

There were further exhibitions by Austrian, British, Danish, Dutch and French private firms.

Around 900,000 Czechoslovak citizens and 2,095 foreign guests from 28 European and 45 overseas countries visited the Fair. The Czechoslovak export monopoly companies concluded business deals to a total value of over 500 million Kčs.

A CHEMICAL WORKERS' SCHOOL OPENED. A school for workers in the chemical industry has been opened at Kolín, in central Bohemia, where workers will be trained for leading posts in the industry.

The Director General of the Czechoslovak Chemical Industry Dr. J. Kárný, said that the chemical industry needed cadres of leading employees able to develop initiative and to organise this sector. The first course, which will last eight months, has 38 pupils, including shockworkers and others who have distinguished themselves by a high degree of intelligence and knowledge.

SUCCESSSES OF CSR PRODUCTS ABROAD. Amongst popular and sought-after Czechoslovak products abroad, Skoda ambulance cars, manufactured by the Automobile Works, national corporation at Mladá Boleslav, have a high place. Among the countries interested are Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Israel and other countries. Similar interest is being shown in the Skoda 1101 car, a four-door limousine with a new type of body.

The Czechoslovak CZ motor cycles which recently took part in the "International Six Days Trial" in Great Britain gained some notable successes. All the riders of the machines finished without losing a point.